

Nondum quidem illam undique satis examinavimus, ut de illius vi atque pretio certi aliquid audeamus prædicare; verisimile vero nobis visum est, adminiculum haud minimi ponderis hanc notam præbere ad species affines dignoscendas." The application of iodine also manifests a long-desired distinction between *Sphaerophoron coralloides* and *fragilis*, tinging the stratum medullare of the thallus of the former of a violet or intense blue, and that of the latter of a yellow colour.

LIV.—On a new Species of Victorian Honey-eater. By FREDERICK M'COY, Prof. Nat. Sc. Melbourne University, and Director of the National Museum, Victoria.

Ptilotis Leadbeteri (M'Coy).

The Subcrested Honey-eater.

Feathers of the crown of the head suberect, so as to form a slightly marked subcompressed crest. Bill strong, moderately arched. Colours (male):—Crown of head and nape dull greenish yellow; back, wings, and tail dull greenish black, the outer edge of the wing- and tail-feathers narrowly edged with dull greenish yellow; lores, or wide space from the gape over and under the eye, the ear-coverts, and extending to the shoulder, intense glossy black; the ear-plume large, and of the most intense pure golden yellow; cheeks below the black bright yellow; chin dull black; breast and abdomen and under tail-coverts dull yellow tinged with olive, particularly at the sides; under wing-coverts blackish, with a narrow bright-yellow edge near the shoulder; the middle of the inner edge of the primaries margined with dull whitish; all the outer tail-feathers tipped with yellowish white, chiefly on the inner circles. Bill and feet brownish black.

Total length 9 inches; bill from gape $\frac{1}{10}$ inch, from forehead $\frac{2}{10}$ inch; wing $4\frac{1}{4}$ inches, tail $4\frac{3}{8}$ inches, tarsi 1 inch.

Female: total length $7\frac{1}{2}$ inches; with the back, wings, and tail of a dark brownish olive, where the male is black.

This splendid new Honey-eater is most allied to the *P. auricornis*, from which its greater size, subcrested head, blackish upper colouring, shorter and thicker bill, and the larger and more intensely coloured ear-plumes, relieved on the intense black extending to the shoulder, easily distinguish it. The subcrestate head, and the female differing in colour from the male, suggest a new subgeneric section for this fine bird, which I have great pleasure in naming after my able and zealous taxidermist at the Melbourne National Museum, whose great ability and diligence well deserve the compliment.